

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3400

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJECT: MIKI-FUKUDA ALLIANCE FORMED JULY 17

1. DISSIDENT LDP FACTION LEADRS TAKEO MIKI AND TAKEO FUKUDA
HELD WELL-PUBLICIZED MEETING AFTERNOON JULY 17 TO FORM ALLIANCE
TO OPPOSE PRIMIN TANAKA REELECTION IN PARTY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
NEXT SUMMER, AND TO DISCUSS PARTY REFORMS CALLED FOR BY EACH IN
RESIGNING FROM CABINET DURING PAST WEEK. MEETING SITE, KENSEI
KINEN KAIKAN, IS RICH IN SYMBOLISM, SINCE IT DEDICATED AS MEMORIAL
TO FORMER MAYOR OF TOKYO AND PIONEER DIET MEMBER YUKIO OZAKI, WHO
IS HIGHLY REGARDED AS LIFELONG CHAMPION OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY.

2. FOLLOWING HOUR-LONG PRIVATE MEETING, MIKI AND FUKUDA GAVE
SEPARATE PRESS CONFERENCES AND EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS THAT LDP
DEFEAT IN JULY 7 UPPER HOUSE ELCTION COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO
MOUNTING PUBLIC CONCERN WITH INFLATION, AND POPULAR BACKLASH
AGAINST PRIMIN TANAKA RELIANCE ON MONEY-POWER CAMPAIGN
TACTICS. ALSO, BOTH INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO MEET.

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3. IN ADDITION, MIKI ANNOUNCED INTENT TO SEEK SUPPORT OF

LDP COLLEAGUES FOR PERSONAL PLAN TO REFORM PARTY, SPECIFICALLY (1) TO REVISE PRESENT SYSTEM OF ELECTING LDP PRESIDENT, (2) TO CHANGE PARTY FUND RAISING SYSTEM AND (3) TO SHIFT EMPHASIS OF CAMPAIGNS FROM EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO DEBATE OF POLICY ISSUES.

4. FUKUKA EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH ABOVE, BUT COMMENTATORS NOTED THAT HE IS NOT PROMOTING SPECIFIC REFORM AS ACTIVELY AS MIKI, WHO IN PAST TWO DAYS HAS SOUGHT SUPPORT FOR REFORM PLAN FROM LOWER HOUSE SPEAKER SHIGESABURO MAEO, UPPER HOUSE PRESIDENT KENZO KONO AND LDP VICE-PRESIDENT ETSUSABURO SHIINA.

5. COMMENT: MIKI AND FUKUDA, BROUGHT TOGETHER BY COMMON OPPOSITION TO PRIMIN TANAKA, HAVE TAKEN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN BUILDING ALLIANCE TO OPPOSE HIS REELECTION AS PARTY PRESIDENT NEXT SUMMER. THEIR CAMPAIGN, IS LIKE TO DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE, HOWEVER, ON HOW WELL THEY CAN COORDINATE VIEWS ON COMPLEX POLICY ISSUES, SUCH AS CHINA, WHICH HAVE HITHERTO DIVIDED THEM. END COMMENT.
HODGSON

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